

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-23 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, and 18 have been amended and claims 4 and 6 have been canceled. Applicants submit that the amendments presented herein raise no new issues requiring further searching or consideration by the Examiner. Entry of this paper is therefore respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-3, 11-17, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for being anticipated by the Murayama publication. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the “supplement bulkhead coupled to at least one side portion other than said end portion of the bulkhead is connected with another supplement bulkhead coupled to an adjacent bulkhead.” The Murayama publication does not disclose these features.

The Murayama publication shows a supplemental bulkhead 15a coupled to at least one side portion, other than an end portion, of a bulkhead 7. (See Figs. 41-45). However, unlike claim 1, supplemental bulkhead 15a is not connected to another supplemental bulkhead that is coupled to an adjacent bulkhead as recited in amended claim 1. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over Murayama.

Claim 11 recites features similar to those that patentably distinguish claim 1 from Murayama. It is therefore submitted that claim 11 and its dependent claims are allowable over this reference.

Claim 20 recites that a supplemental bulkhead which is angled between the emitting cell and the sealant “to prevent a sealant from permeating into the emitting cell.” The Murayama publication does not disclose these features, i.e., the supplemental bulkhead of Murayama is angled relative to an emitting cell. But, this supplemental bulkhead is not positioned within the Murayama structure to prevent a sealant from permeating into an emitting cell. Rather, the supplemental bulkhead of Murayama is positioned to prevent conductive wire 11 from contacting a nearby cathode line 9 (see Figs. 3 and 4), thereby preventing a short-circuit from forming between adjacent cathode lines.

Moreover, Paragraph [17] of Murayama and its corresponding figures do not disclose or suggest the position of the sealant as recited in claim 20, i.e., a sealant formed in a region other than the emitting region. Rather, as indicated above, Paragraph [17] merely discloses that supplemental bulkhead 15a serves to prevent adjacent cathode lines from short-circuiting. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is allowable.

Similarly, claim 21 recites “a sealant formed in a region other than the emitting region” and “a supplemental bulkhead formed apart from the sealant and surrounding the emitting region, so as to prevent a sealant from permeating into the emitting cell.” These features are not disclosed or suggested by the Murayama publication.

Claims 5, 7-10, 18, 19, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of an AAPA-Murayama combination. Applicants transverse this rejection on grounds that AAPA does not teach or suggest the features of base claims 1 and 11 missing from the

Serial No. 10/824,364
Amendment dated August 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2007

Docket No. K-0633

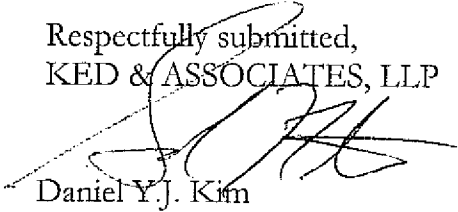
Murayama publication.

Additionally, claims 7 and 18 recite that the supplemental bulkhead coupled to at least one side portion other than said end portion of the bulkhead is connected with another supplemental bulkhead coupled to an adjacent bulkhead. These features are not taught or suggested by AAPA or Murayama, whether taken alone or in combination. Withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 10, 2007

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